

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 10, 2004. Claims 1-30 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9, 27, 29 and 30 are in independent form. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention; the changes made are only to clarify the claim language, and not to effect a change in the scope. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11, 12, 15-18 and 21-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,088,004 (Domae et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 6,049,316 (Nolan et al), and Claims 3, 8, 10, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 27-30, as being obvious from those patents taken together with each other and in view of U.S. Patent 6,018,332 (Nason et al.).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a display control device for controlling the display of pictures that are from a plurality of signal sources connected to signal lines, in a plurality of display areas on a single screen, respectively. The display control device of Claim 1 comprises an attributes information memory, which stores display attributes information for each of the plurality of display areas on the single screen, and a notification unit. The latter unit notifies the plurality of signal sources connected to the signal lines of the stored display attributes information corresponding to the display area in which the picture from the each of the plurality of signal sources is displayed.

Among other important features of a device constructed according to Claim 1, are (1) the displaying of pictures from a plurality of sources on a single screen and (2) notifying each of the plurality of sources of attribute information of the area in which each image displayed.

Domae relates to displaying an image on a plurality of monitors and switching images to be displayed. Applicant strongly believes, however, that nothing in that patent would teach or even hint at displaying images from a *plurality* of sources, on each of a *plurality* of displaying areas, on a *single* screen, as recited in Claim 1. Nor is there seen to be any disclosure of notifying each of a plurality of sources of attributes of a plurality of areas on such single screen, respectively.

Nolan relates to a system that stores an attribute of an external monitor connected to a portable personal computer. However, there is no disclosure of the above-mentioned two features.

Even assuming the Examiner's proposed combination of these documents were permissible, therefore (and for reasons given below, Applicant is firmly convinced that it is not), the result of the combination would not meet the terms of Claim 1.

Moreover, Applicant cannot accept the Examiner's proposed combination of these two patents. In Applicant's view, the Examiner has failed to provide a believable motivation for a person of merely ordinary skill to have combined those two patents. The Examiner's proposed reason, to obtain the ability for a user to have each interface identified separately with its own characteristics, does not appear to be based on anything taught, or even hinted at, by anything in either patent, or elsewhere in the art of record. Nor has the Examiner explained on what basis he considers that a person of merely ordinary skill would have felt the Examiner's proposed motivation. As noted previously by Applicant, *Domae* relates to a system that selects one signal, from among signals received from plural sources, for display either on a single monitor or spread over plural monitors. That is, in the *Domae* system, only one signal is

displayed. Apart from the fact that this does not appear to suggest in any clear way displaying *plural* images on *one* screen, as recited in Claim 1, the fact that the *Domae* system only displays one signal seems to Applicant to make the Examiner's proposed motivation for combination, unrealistic. The intention in *Domae* is to have one signal displayed, whether on a single screen or spread over several: either way, since only the signal from a single source is being shown, it is not understood in what way a user is going to be interested in having plural interfaces as unique monitors with their own characteristics, as suggested in the Office Action. Either only one monitor is showing the signal, or several are cooperating to show a single signal.

Moreover, no reason is seen why a person of only ordinary skill would have had any reasonable expectation of successfully combining these two patents, even assuming such a person had a motivation to do so in the first place.

For all these reasons, it is strongly urged that the Office Action fails to make out any *prima facie* case of obviousness, insofar as the obviousness rejections in the outstanding Office Action are based on the proposed combination of *Domae* and *Nolan* (which is to say, all the outstanding rejections), and in particular, the rejection of Claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 9 is directed to a display control device for controlling the display of pictures that are from a plurality of signal sources connected to signal lines, in a plurality of display areas on a single screen respectively. The device of Claim 9 comprises an obtaining unit, which obtains identification signals relating to pictures from the plurality of signal sources, and a display selection information creating unit, which creates display selection information based on the obtained identification signals. A display selection unit appropriates each of the pictures to the plurality of display areas on the single screen according to the created

display selection information, and a notification unit notifies each of the plurality of signal sources connected to the signal lines of the created display selection information.

Claim 9 is believed to be allowable over *Domae* and *Nolan*, taken separately or in any proper combination (if there is any), for at least the reasons given above with regard to Claim 1.

Independent Claim 27 is directed to a display control system for controlling the display of pictures that are from a plurality of signal sources connected to signal lines, in a plurality of display areas on a screen respectively. The system comprises a display control device that includes an attributes information memory, which stores display attributes information for each of the plurality of display areas, and an obtaining unit, which obtains identification signals relating to pictures from the plurality of signal sources. Also provided in the display control device are a display selection information creating unit, which creates display selection information based on the obtained identification signals, a display selection unit, which appropriates the pictures to the plurality of display areas according to the created display selection information, and a notification unit, which notifies the plurality of signal sources connected to the signal lines of each of the stored display attributes information and the created display selection information. Also, according to Claim 27, each of the plurality of signal sources comprises a transmitting unit, which transmits picture signals corresponding to a display area, based on the display attributes information and the display selection information provided by the notification unit.

Claim 27 is believed to be clearly allowable over the art discussed above, for substantially the reasons as are Claims 1 and 9, and for additional reasons as well.

Moreover, even if *Nason* is deemed to show all that it is cited for, and even assuming that the proposed combination of that patent with *Domae* and *Nolan* were proper (and for the reasons presented above, the proposed combination is believed strongly to be improper), the result would not meet the recitations of Claim 27.

Independent Claims 29 and 30 are each, respectively, a method or a memory medium claim corresponding to system Claim 27, and are each, therefore, also believed to be clearly allowable over those patents.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

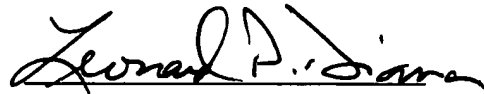
The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In any event, however, entry of this Amendment as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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